



# Flood

## Safety & Products

### Flood Safety Rules

\* **Move to higher ground and stay away from low-lying areas such as streambeds, drainage ditches, and culverts.**

Heavy rainfall or dam/levee failure may cause excessive water to run off rapidly, overflowing natural and man-made drainage systems with rushing flood waters. These flood waters may carry debris that can cause serious injury or even death.

\* **Stay out of flooded areas.**

In flooded areas, water may still be rising and is usually swift. Children are especially vulnerable and should not be allowed to play or walk in flowing water. Only 6 inches of fast-moving water is necessary to sweep you off your feet.

\* **Never drive your vehicle into water of unknown depths or around barricades.**

Many flood deaths occur when people drive their vehicles into flood waters. Flood waters may rise very quickly and could cover the vehicle or sweep it away. Just 2 feet of water can move most vehicles, including buses and trucks. If your vehicle stalls, abandon it and immediately seek higher ground.

\* **Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.**

***Water is a very powerful force and should never be underestimated!***



Lacey Spring area (Morgan County) , December 2004

### Types of Flood Watches and Warnings Issued by the National Weather Service



#### Watches

**FLASH FLOOD WATCH** - issued when conditions are favorable for flash flooding (sudden short-term flooding that lasts less than 6 hours). This includes floods from dam or levee failures.

**FLOOD WATCH** - issued when conditions are favorable for long-duration flooding (longer than 6 hours). This includes river flooding.

#### Warnings

**FLASH FLOOD WARNING** - issued when flooding occurs or is imminent within 6 hours of the event.

**FLOOD WARNING** - issued when flooding occurs or is imminent and is expected to persist for more than 6 hours.

**RIVER FLOOD WARNING** - issued when a flood is occurring or expected to occur near streams, rivers, lakes, or reservoirs.